

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CU-02 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 H-01

SCCT-01 SY-04 NIC-01 SAM-01 /067 W

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R 260712Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8257

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 2469

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, IS, JA

SUBJECT: ISRAELI PARTICIPATION IN SPORTS EVENTS

REF: SEOUL 1205

SUMMARY: EMBASSY PROVIDES BACKGROUND ON JAPANESE TREATMENT  
OF ISRAELI WOMEN'S HANDBALL TEAM. END SUMMARY.

1. JAPANESE VERNACULAR PRESS FEBRUARY 26 CARRIED DETAILED  
ACCOUNT OF EXTRAORDINARY HANDLING OF ISRAELI WOMEN'S  
HANDBALL TEAM BY JAPAN HANDBALL ASSOCIATION AND POLICE  
AUTHORITIES. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNT, ASSOCIATION  
OFFICIALS ORIGINALLY WISHED TO HOLD JAPAN-ISRAEL PLAYOFF  
IN U.S. OR EUROPE TO AVOID DANGER OF ATTACK AGAINST  
ISRAELI TEAM MEMBERS BY "GUERRILLAS" DURING THEIR STAY  
HERE. WHEN THAT PROVED IMPOSSIBLE, ASSOCIATION DETERMINED  
TO ACCEPT VISIT BY ISRAELI TEAM AND CONDUCT MATCH IN  
TOKYO AREA UNDER EXTRAORDINARILY TIGHT SECURITY CONDITIONS.

2. TEAM MEMBERS ARE BEING HOUSED IN SECURED AREA OF  
HOTEL (OKURA) AND ARE NOT PERMITTED TO LEAVE ROOMS EVEN  
FOR MEALS. HOTEL NAME IS NOT RELEASED TO PRESS.  
DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH ALSO BEING  
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WITHHELD FROM PRESS UNTIL NIGHT BEFORE OR MORNING OF

COMPETITION, WHEN COMPETITORS AND PRESS WILL BE BOARDED ON SPECIAL BUSES TO TAKE THEM, UNDER POLICE ESCORT, DIRECTLY TO SITE. REASON FOR ASSOCIATION OFFICIALS' CONCERN IS CLAIMED TO BE INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED AT 13TH MEN'S HANDBALL "EUROPE CUP" MEET IN LUXEMBURG IN NOVEMBER 1972.

3. ISRAELI EMBASSY COUNSELLOR SHELLEF, DURING CALL ON POLCOUNS FEBURARY 25 ON OTHER MATTERS, PROVIDED PARTIAL PREVIEW OF THIS MORNING'S PRESS ACCOUNT. HE SAID GOJ POLICE JOINED WITH HIS EMBASSY IN URGING HANDBALL ASSOCIATION OFFICIALS TO RELAX THEIR REQUIREMENTS FOR STAGING THE MATCH IN TOKYO. AFTER STRENUOUS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE ASSOCIATION, HOWEVER, ISRAELIS WERE FINALLY ABLE ONLY TO OBTAIN AGREEMENT THAT GIRLS WOULD BE PERMITTED ONE HEAVILY ESCORTED SHOPPING TRIP AWAY FROM HOTEL DURING THEIR TEN-DAY STAY.

4. SHELLEF'S CALL AT EMBASSY WAS TO SOUND OUT OUR VIEW OF CURRENT ATTITUDES OF GOJ TOWARD ISRAEL. HE SAID THEY ARE CONCERNED THAT RUMORS OF POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF PLO OFFICE IN TOKYO AND THEIR UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE ATTITUDES OF MIKI AND MIYAZAWA HAVE RAISED ACTIVE WORRY THAT GOJ "TILT" MAY IN NEAR FUTURE COMMENCE AGAIN TO LEAN AWAY FROM ISRAEL. HE CONFESSED THAT THEY CONSIDERED POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS OF TREATMENT ACCORDED HANDBALL TEAM, BUT THEY HAVE SATISFIED THEMSELVES THAT GOJ WAS NOT ORIGINALLY INVOLVED AND INCIDENT SHOULD NOT BE READ AS INDICATOR OF GOJ POLICY ATTITUDES.

HODGSON

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PROTECTIVE SECURITY, ATHLETIC PRESENTATIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Reference:** 75 SEOUL 1205  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 15 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <15 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <16 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ISRAELI PARTICIPATION IN SPORTS EVENTS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, IS, JA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006